

At 5:30 p.m., Mayor Condrey called the City Council meeting to order in Council Chambers, Lower Level of the City Building.

City Council Members present: A. Vitori, M. Nenni, T. Moon, J. Mulligan, N. Condrey.

ROLL CALL

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Ms. Vitori

It has been a very tumultuous week for all of us on so many different levels. I have gotten to a place of real peace and it's been a silver lining to see the true humanity that everyone has been able to focus on the past few days. I want to thank and express my appreciation to all of the City staff members, especially Health Commissioner Jackie Phillips and Acting City Manager Scott Tadych. It has been great to see people working together and supporting one another. I am grateful for all of the support and harmony that I have seen in the community and I hope it continues as we continue to navigate through this crisis.

Mr. Mulligan

I, too, want to express my thanks and appreciation to City staff for their dedicated work to continue to provide essential governmental services to the community. I would encourage everyone to complete their 2020 census forms during this downtime. This data is critical for federal funding, determines the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives and is used to draw congressional and state legislative districts. A state's number of electors equals the number of representatives plus two electors for the senators the state has in the United States Congress. The number of representatives is based on the respective populations, determined every ten years by the United States Census.

Ms. Nenni

Thank you, Madame Mayor. When Nicole and I received our council orientation and sat down with Jackie Phillips, she talked about our City's disaster response plan and mentioned that this could even be used in a potential outbreak or pandemic situation. And at the time, the Coronavirus now referred to as COVID-19 wasn't even on our radar. I remember thinking, that's a great thing to have in place, but the chances of needing it are probably low.

And our level of public response escalated so quickly. Just last week we were talking about needing to wash our hands more frequently and use hand sanitizer, which is still very important. But then we saw what was happening in Italy and the rest of the world, and we realized that if we didn't act fast things could get exponentially worse.

I'm not a scientist or a medical professional, but I do know that social distancing is our best method for slowing the spread of this virus as quickly as possible. I believe that the phrase "non-essential" is another important aspect of a successful response. It may not be a formal ban, but it can apply to travel, entertainment, beauty, elective medical visits, and more. If it's "non-essential" then it can probably wait. You aren't just putting yourself at risk, you're putting the elderly and most vulnerable in our society at risk.

The Governor's formal restrictions will have an impact on our daily lives, but we will still be here to live them when the bans are lifted. As a member of the small business community, I can proudly share that we are finding new ways to safely serve Middletown. It's a different process for each person and business. For some it means offering carryout or delivery, for others it's sharing your craft online. While you spend more time at home - don't stop building, or learning, or growing. There will be more challenges to face, but we will face them together.

Mr. Moon

These are unprecedented times, I want to encourage the public to stay safe and to stay home if possible. On the business front, there is a state wide shutdown of bars and restaurants. Downtown Middletown Inc. is providing information about resources available for small businesses. The City website has information about coronavirus. The Small Business Association's website sba.gov/coronavirus provides information about relief options and additional resources for businesses impacted by the shutdown. With the decision to delay voting, I would anticipate that you can still request absentee ballots. That would allow your voice to be heard and to stay safe.

Mr. Condrey

I am excited and honored to approve the appointment of Ms. Lyons to the Economic Development Director position tonight. There were a lot of great candidates and we are really lucky to have her as part of this team.

There is no script for what we are facing right now. Health Commissioner Jackie Phillips and her team are doing an incredible job. Acting City Manager Scott Tadych and Communications Manager Shelby Quinlivan are doing a great job coming together and coming up with creative solutions. I want to encourage Middletown residents to sign up for the CodeRED Emergency Notification Service. This ultra-high-speed telephone communication service allows us to telephone all or targeted areas of the City in case of an emergency situation that requires immediate action (such as a boil-water notice, missing child, or evacuation notices). It is capable of dialing 50,000 phone numbers per hour. It will deliver a recorded message to a live person or an answering machine, making three attempts to connect to any number. The number 999-911-9999 will appear on your caller ID. This system will only be used for emergency purposes.

such as floods, bomb threats, hostage situations, chemical spill or gas leaks, and situations like COVID-19. To sign up or to update your information you can go to the Middletown Division of Police Facebook page or the City of Middletown website. Click on "How do I?" then click on "Sign Up for" and choose CodeRED. If you are using any sort of "Privacy Manager" on your home telephone line it will most likely block calls from the CodeRED emergency notification system. We strongly urge residents with "Privacy Manager" to register with an alternate phone number, such as a mobile number. Currently we only have about 20,000 residential phones registered in the system. There is a problem when a message is sent out and everyone starts calling the Police Dispatch Center. The dispatch center then gets 20,000 calls to the police desk. The message will inform the callers not to call the police dispatch.

I have been in communication with and sharing ideas with the leaders of our neighboring cities. The situation that we are in is bigger than ourselves and that in a very short period of time, our lives have seemingly been put on hold. Sporting events canceled, school is out, spring break and travel cancelled, work put on hold, layoffs, no socializing. All of these things will be overcome with time and we will be back and stronger than ever. This is our opportunity to stand up and work together and to slow the spread of this virus. By doing this, we define who Middletown is to the world. It is not an easy time right now and your hardships are not to be minimized. There are difficult times ahead. This virus is hitting all communities. How we choose to come together and react will define our future. Our economy has been quickly spun into turmoil. This virus does not know wealth or affluence and economic or social status is no factor. This virus is unlike others in the way that it spreads, its lethality and the potential burden on medical facilities/personnel is unique. We have an opportunity to slow the spread until an immunity to the virus develops or a vaccine and everything we do right now really does matter. I have learned that the Middletown community is passionate, proud, and united. What can you do?

- Wash your hands often
- Stay home if you are able
- MUST stay home if you are sick
- Help neighbors find the City's information resources
- Help neighbors sign up for CodeRED Emergency Notification Service
- Offer to help a neighbor with essential shopping if they are not able to get out
- Don't use the medical system unless it is critical to you or a loved one's health
- Support your local businesses
- Order take-out from your favorite local restaurant
- Start a neighborhood social media group to communicate needs
- Have compassion for each other

Middletown has faced difficult times in the past and we are a resilient City. This time is ours and our future belongs to us. The decisions we make and actions we take now WILL shape the future of our city. Each of us have been part of a team of sorts our entire life. A team works together for a common goal to succeed. If we work as individuals, the team fails. I am asking each of us to eliminate word "I" from our vocabulary and to embrace the word "Community." To conquer this, must become the greatest team in the history of Middletown. I believe in us! Stay safe, remain informed, make good decisions, trust your neighbor and look out for each other with compassion and love. Blue skies always over Middletown and over the entire United States of America! We will get through this.

CONSENT AGENDA.

Receive and file the Oaths of Office for Jason Kershner, Nathan Morgan, Matthew Queen, Cody Robertson, Zachary Sharp, Kenneth Spears, Lincoln Weizman and Brandon Williams. Confirm the personnel appointment of Chris Xeil Lyons to the position of Economic Development Director in the Department of Economic Development.

Mr. Mulligan moved to approve the issues and actions listed on the Consent Agenda. Ms. Vitori seconded. Motion carried. Ayes: Ms. Nenni, Mr. Moon, Mr. Mulligan, Ms. Condrey, Ms. Vitori.

MOTION ITEM

To approve the purchase the following items totaling \$206,000 off the ODAS Contract for a new fire medic and associated equipment:

- Medix fire medic from Penn Care, of Niles, OH, in the amount of \$146,126.00
- Power Load Cot and Stair Chair from Stryker, of Chicago, IL in the amount of \$47,534.24
- Graphics package from DanCo Lettering, of Dayton, OH in the amount of \$1,956.00
- Camera recording system from Pro-Vision, of Byron Center, MI in the amount of \$2,400.00
- Thermal Image Camera from Vogelpohl Fire Equipment, of Erlanger, KY in the amount of \$6,540.00
- Fire/EMS equipment from various vendors in the amount of \$1,443.76.

Mayor Condrey stated that Council is looking at General Fund expenditures very closely in these uncertain times. Acting City Manager Tadych confirmed that these items will be paid out of the Garage Fund.

Mr. Mulligan moved to approve the purchase the several items totaling \$206,000 off the ODAS Contract for a new fire medic and associated equipment. Ms. Vitori seconded. Motion carried. Ayes: Mr. Moon, Mr. J. Mulligan, Ms. Condrey, Ms. Nenni, Ms. Vitori.

LEGISLATION

Ord. No. O2020-14
Contract for Local
Street Improvement

Ord. No. O2020-15
Approve Contract with
Southeastern Equip.

Ord. No. O2020-16
 Levy Special
 Assessments

Res. No. R2020-06
Amend Appropriations


Ordinance No. O2020-14, an ordinance authorizing a contract with RA Miller Construction Co., Inc. for the 2020 Local Street Improvement Program and declaring an emergency was read with no action requested until April 7, 2020.

Ordinance No. O2020-15, establishing a procedure for and authorizing a contract with South-eastern Equipment Company for the purchase of a Bomag Tandem Vibratory Roller and declar-ing an emergency was read with no action requested until April 7, 2020.

Ordinance No. O2020-16, an ordinance to levy special assessments for the repair of sidewalks, curbs, gutters and driveway aprons in the City of Middletown during the year 2019 against the lots and lands benefitted by said improvements was read for the first time.

Resolution No. R2020-06, a resolution to make adjustments to appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Middletown, Counties of Butler and Warren, State of Ohio, for the period ending December 31, 2020 was read for the first time. (Police Grant Fund)

ADJOURNMENTAt 5:58 p.m., the meeting was declared adjourned until April 6, 2020.



Nicole Condrey, Mayor

Attest: 